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D. Townsend
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Atty. Dkt. No. 076326-0222

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gerhard KLINGAUF, et al
Title: SEAT BELT FORCE LIMITER
Appl. No.: 10/026,962
Filing Date: 12/27/2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 3611

RECEIVED

JAN 14 2003

GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.



RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Any document listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited in a German Office Action. English-language counterparts of the foreign-language documents have not been provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609). English language abstracts are attached.

Document A1 was previously submitted in Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed March 21, 2002. Accordingly, no additional copy is being provided.

Document A2 relates to a belt roller for vehicle seat belt system, which has coupling catches moving over control surfaces to engage central pinion, with coupling including cage fixed to housing.

Document A3 relates to a seat belt retractor, which has rotating movement of the belt reel scanned so that energy absorption is adjustable as a function of crash related data, and hydraulic pump type load limiter.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

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otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 13, 2003

By Michael D. Kaminski

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